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Now, every life sacrificed by the aggressors in an unjust war, is simply a murder. Admit the rightfulness of a strictly defensive war, and still those who provoke the quarrel can be regarded in no other light than as wholesale murderers. But the contract of the soldier with his government binds him to wage whatever war that government may declare, whether of defence or aggression, and thus perpetrate wholesale butchery of human beings for hire.

If war is ever justifiable, it is only as the last resort in defence of rights more precious than life itself. This every civilized man admits. Even then it is a fearful and mournful alternative. The heart possessed of the commonest feelings of humanity, shrinks from the terrible ordeal of battle, and will take arms, if at all, only from a stern and resistless sense of duty, from a discharge of which there is no possible escape. Such a man—and if war in this extreme case be right, no other kind of man is fit to wage it—will embrace the very first opportunity to lay down his arms, and return joyfully to the more congenial and happy pursuits of peace.

It is a disputed and doubtful point, whether bloodshed, even in this extreme case, is justifiable; but it is not doubtful or disputed, that under any other circumstances war is stupendously wicked. Now, it is evident from the nature of the case, that none of this reluctance to enter upon the bloody work of human slaughter, can be felt by the professional soldier. He chooses war for a trade, in preference to all other callings in life, and bargains to kill with alacrity, and for reward, whenever ordered. Thus the first choice of his vocation indicates either outright blood-thirstiness, or a reckless indifference to the sacredness of human life; and all his subsequent training in the camp, and on the battle-field, tends to foster and strengthen both these dispositions of mind. In view of this inevitable tendency of the military profession, it is not strange that the annals of war, between what are called by courtesy Civilized and Christianized nations, are stained with the record of the most cold-blooded and atrocious crimes, such as robbery, arson, rape, adultery and murder.

It is surely, then, a sad and disheartening indication to see a professedly Christian nation honoring men with the highest offices in its gift, solely or mainly on account of their achievements in battle. Yet such has been the practice of this nation almost from the beginning. The men who have been raised to the highest civil stations, with the greatest enthusiasm, and the largest majorities, have been men whose chief, and in some cases whose only distinction was success in the work of human slaughter. What is worse than all, Christians of this land have not only seen these things done without rebuke, but have even aided to do them!

MISCELLANEOUS.

REPLY TO A CALL FOR A FINE, OR A MILITARY DRILL.—In the State of New York, persons liable to military service are excused by paying an annual tax of only seventy-five cents. It seems, however, that some there refuse even this pittance; and in response to a demand for either this small tax, or his appearance on parade, “fully armed and equipped according to law,” one “C. O. READ,” under date of “August 1, 1852,” thus writes to the aforesaid militia officer:—

“The meaning of the above notice, reduced to plain English, I understand to be this: that I provide myself with shooting and stabbing irons, or a long butcher-knife, (as the case may be,) and assemble with others, similar-

ly equipped, and together learn the art and science of wholesale human butchery. Sir, I claim exemption from such service because it is barbarous, inhuman and wicked.

Why, sir, I would not act the part of *hangman*—even when the victim is guilty of the highest crime—much less would I join with others in the wholesale murder of innocent men, women and children. The trade of an assassin is abhorrent to my soul, whether it be in the retail or wholesale line. It is so when he selects only those he may deem deserving of death; but doubly abhorrent is it, when the individual surrenders his own will, conscience and judgment, and agrees to shoot, stab, slay, kill and destroy any and every one, as another may see fit to direct, and without regard to their guilt or innocence.

I also claim exemption on the ground, that such employment is directly opposed to the plainest principles of Christianity. "Christ says: "Love your enemies;" and "love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Now, if the government you represent commands me to kill and destroy, then it clearly commands me to do what God forbids. I am no disbeliever in human governments, within their proper limits; but, when they command me to do what God forbids, I answer them in the words of the apostle, "whether it be right to obey God or man, judge ye." To your communication, therefore, I must reply in the words of one of the early Christians: "I am a Christian, and cannot fight."

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.—It is said that it costs this nation \$800 for each cadet that is educated at this Academy. If this was all the evil, there would not be quite so much cause for complaint, and for desiring the suspension or utter overthrow of that inhuman institution. But this is but a fraction of the evil, a drop in the bucket. After men are taught to murder their fellow-beings, they want employment, and for that purpose will do all they can to get up wars with other nations, so that we may never expect permanent peace while the nation continues to manufacture murderers. Had there never been any military academy in this nation, that most wicked and disgraceful war with Mexico might never have taken place. There was in the country a swarm of men educated at West Point, who wanted a chance to work at their trade, and fill their pockets out of the national treasury, and with plunder. They had worked themselves into the favor of government officers, and by their advice the war with Mexico was encouraged.

When the eyes of mankind are opened to see clearly the real peace-promoting principles of the gospel, what a disgrace it will be to a nation like this to be found with a military school for the education of warriors! What are the people of this nation thinking about? They make a higher profession of Christianity than any other nation on the globe; they have the New Testament in all their houses, hear it read in all their churches, and yet do not even appear to have the least doubt that fighting is a part of Christianity! Nay, they nearly all pretend it is a Christian duty to slay men, and dash out the brains of innocent women and children, for the credit of the nation! Just think of it—a Christian nation educating men in the art of human slaughter, and at the same time professing to be the meek and humble disciples of the Prince of Peace! Educating murderers at eight hundred dollars each, and spending not a single dollar to teach the science of agriculture or the useful arts!

THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG FOR WAR.—An encampment of one hundred boys under 18 years of age, belonging in the town of Quincy, was commenced near the Stone Church in that place yesterday morning. They are divided into two companies, one from the North and the other from the

South part of the town. Their uniform consists, one company of blue jackets and white trowsers, the other of red jackets and white trowsers, and all have fatigue caps. They pitched their tents in military fashion, and placed their guards around the field. Their arms were, however, a harmless wooden imitation of the musket. In the forenoon, yesterday, the friends of each company gave them a collation. In the afternoon they were reviewed by Brigadier J. A. Veasie. To-day they go through the drill exercise in presence of their friends. The camp ground of these young volunteers has been visited by a large number of people.—*Boston Traveller.*

A fine nursery of war! Here is the way, nor could a surer one be devised, to create an early and a life-long fondness for war. It must of course have been got up with the consent and aid of parents; and then there came high officers to review them, and "large numbers" to see and applaud them. Strange infatuation for a *Christian* community!

THE ARMY SYSTEM IN RUSSIA.—The imperial family of Russia, says a recent letter-writer, resides at this season at Peterhoff; and while the annual manœuvres are going on, Nicholas spends his time with the army. These manœuvres are mock campaigns, the Emperor taking the command of one division, the Crown Prince, Alexander, of the other, and the two armies skirmish across the country, retreating, pursuing, and finally ending by the victorious party storming their opponents in their intrenched camp. In these exercises they go through all the operations of real war, assault and take castles, and, for about a fortnight, carry on their mimic strife, in which the Emperor generally contrives to come out the conqueror. An immense amount of revenue is of course consumed in supporting an army reputed to contain half a million of men, and in carrying on such extensive manœuvres as these; and there is, also, some danger of the strife becoming serious, as this did occur on one occasion when two favorite regiments, fighting against each other, became so excited that their sport turned to earnest, and about thirty men were bayoneted before they could be stopped. The army is the Czar's hobby; he performs his other arduous duties as ruler of such an immense empire with energy and industry; but to military affairs he turns for relaxation. With the soldiers he is popular; but his strict discipline and severe restrictions procure for him more fear than love from his officers. He is now recruiting largely to add to the already overgrown army, and various rumors are afloat as to what he intends to do with it. The prevalent supposition is that he is watching his chance to suppress free principles in Europe; but his son is different in character, and before he can realize his gigantic projects, old age or death will probably frustrate them.

It is curious to observe how, in this country, everything centres in the Czar. He is the great idol to which all bow in fear or admiration; his movements, his actions, form the common topic of conversation; and every one has a stock of anecdotes to relate illustrating either his good or his bad qualities, as they may happen to like or dislike him.

THE PRUSSIAN MILITARY SYSTEM.—The Prussians are most essentially a military people. At twenty years of age every Prussian, whatever be his condition, must join the army, and serve for three years. The usual exceptions of physical inability, and being the only son of a widow, of course prevail, and there are certain others; but exclusive of these, it is by no means always convenient for a young man to leave his home in order to "serve his king," especially when his country is enjoying full peace and prosperity. Neither is there any temptation as to pay, which, for a private soldier,

besides his uniform, amounts to one and a half pounds of bread per day, a dinner costing three cents, and three cents in money. Even when a man has served his three years, he does not quit all connection with the army; for he is for two years longer one of the "reserve," and, should war break out, must immediately join his regiment, and take the field.

The Landwehr is composed of those who have passed through both the regular service and the reserve; that is, those between twenty-five and forty years, at which latter age they are no longer called upon. This body is regularly organized into regiments, &c., but has no drill or parades except two terms of a month each for encampment and exercise by way of review. It differs then greatly from the American militia, in being composed of well disciplined and thoroughly instructed men.

If a young man at twenty desires for any reason to be enlisted, he may be for four years; but at the end of that time he must join the army as a "volunteer;" that is, he must uniform and maintain himself for a year, receiving nothing from the State. In time of peace, the regular army, consisting of more than one hundred thousand men, garrison the towns and fortresses, but in the occurrence of war it immediately takes the field reinforced by its reserved men, making each infantry regiment three thousand strong. The first division of Landwehrs (men between twenty-five and thirty-two) are then mustered into service, uniformed from the arsenals, and garrison the towns, recruiting the army, and being itself recruited from the second division of Landwehr, as occasion and the exigencies of the war require. The officers are regularly educated at the military academies, of which there are three provincial, and one central institution at Berlin, numbering in all nine hundred cadets.

SOME EVILS, ESPECIALLY OF A NAVAL WAR, TO OURSELVES.—As soon as a war shall occur between the United States and any naval power, our possessions in the Pacific will be an easy conquest. San Francisco will be the immediate object of attack. Under such circumstances, it will be natural for California to make a separate peace with foreign powers. In other words, she must, from interest, separate herself from our quarrels with foreign powers; for we contribute nothing to her defence, although we might involve her in destruction. The moment a war occurs, all communication between the Atlantic coast and the Pacific coast will be cut off. We have but one route now, the Panama route, which is open and available for transporting troops and supplies to California, and that will be, of course, closed to us in time of war with a naval power.

PROGRESS OF PEACE SENTIMENTS.

We see on every side proofs of such progress; and the recent breeze about the fisheries is calling them forth even in England as well as in our own country. It is too true that some members of our Congress, a few even of grave Senators, betrayed in their hot and hasty utterances, a bad spirit on this subject, as well as a disreputable lack of wisdom and dignity; and there are always low and partisan editors enough among us to echo and re-echo every war sentiment they can catch from any quarter; but the mass of the people, so far from responding to such appeals, have promptly rebuked them, and betrayed scarcely the slightest symptom of excitement about the matter.

Just so in England, where the *people* seem almost instinctively to resist all idea of war with us for the settlement of such controversies. We give a

few illustrations. A correspondent of the N. Y. Christian Advocate and Journal, says :—

We have been a little excited by the excitement on your side of the water about the fish. Certainly there has been no anger here, unless at our government, for not having managed to keep out of difficulties on such a point. But as to settling things of that kind between you and us by blows, John Bull seems, thank Providence, most perfectly cured of all such desires. He would fight if you force him, and in that case would fight; but the *whole public mind of the country is averse to every thought of war with the States.* I am delighted to see how this peace feeling prevails among men of all parties. And surely it is much more reasonable to settle differences before bloodshed than after it. If we had fought and beaten you, or got beaten by you, what would the matter gain in clearness by that? But each of these commotions does good in this way, that it accustoms nations to settle their disputes without war. May a gracious Providence order it that this may ever be the case between us and you!

One of the editors of the Independent, now travelling abroad, writes thus from Ireland :—

Every body here as well as in England and Scotland, rejoices at the settlement of the fishing question. No one with whom I have come into contact, whether in public conveyances, at hotels, or in the social circle, has been disposed to pick a quarrel with the United States, or to condemn our government and people. On the contrary, the ministry here is universally blamed and contemned for its rash and discourteous proceeding in this affair. A witty Irish gentleman remarked the other day, that the settlement of the question reminded him of the Irishman who, finding that he couldn't live peaceably with his wife, proposed that they should divide the house; to this she agreed; so says he, "Biddy, ye'll be jist after taking the outside of the house, and I'll kape the inside." He thought the Americans kept the inside. Yet nobody seems troubled by this. America is respected and loved by the people of Great Britain and Ireland.

THE CODLING CONTROVERSY.—The tone of the English liberal press towards the Tory ministry, for their late onslaught against the American fishermen, is unsparingly severe. Take the following sample, being the introductory paragraph of a leading article in *Boyd's Weekly Newspaper*, edited by Douglas Jerrold:

"**FISH KETTLE WAR?**—Certainly not. The fish-kettle may make a noise; may throb as with hot bubbling water; much steam may escape, but there will be no boiling over.

"Mr. Disraeli is a man of dangerous eloquence: Lord Derby is a nobleman of great legendary chivalry: Lord Malmesbury a foreign secretary who unwittingly may be induced to put his hand to any thing. Nevertheless Disraeli would as soon think of persuading Derby to place his head against the muzzle of a loaded Tower gun; and that done, would as soon blandly urge the complying Malmesbury to fire the gun, blowing into some future England that self-sacrificing head of the Cabinet—we say Mr. Disraeli, Earls Derby and Malmesbury, would all of them as soon contrive to act this tragic folly—the remainder of the ministry generally assenting and kindly assisting—as think of embroiling England and America in a cod and mackerel contest—in a stupid, unprofitable, fish-kettle war."

To all this let us add, that France is now proposing a large reduction of her army. Do we not thus see multiplying proofs of progress in this cause?